The South 40

Potato leafhoppers due to arrive soon

By JAMES A. SMITH

Last week I found a light population of potato leafhoppers in one alfalfa field. It's that time of year when they begin to arrive. It's not time to spray--but be alert for this pest. Damage is often greater on a new seeding and during periods of drought.

Remember the damage is not in loss of foliage as we have with the alfalfa weevil, but this insect injects a material into the stem causing stunting and yellowing of the leaves.

Last year the potato leafhopper population was particularly heavy. It's too early to project what to expect this year.

There are seven materials recommended as sprays. Some are considerably more effective than others.

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Some corn has a large number of adult cereal leaf beetles feeding on the leaves. In general, I would say don't bother to spray, but there could be isolated cases where this is a potential threat.

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Blue mold is reported in 14 Georgia counties, 18 North Carolina counties, 1 Maryland county and 3 Virginia counties.

With the humid weather we are having, it is ideal for blue mold development.

Destroy plant beds as soon as possible. I would hope everyone has completed transplanting by now.

You are advised to spray the tobacco weekly with a good fungicide if the field was not treated with Ridomil.

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Animal Industry Day is July 8 on the Virginia Tech Campus. Appomattox livestock producers are invited to share a bus with Buckingham County. We need to know by June 24 if you plan to travel by bus. Cost is $5.00 and departing 6:50 A.M. from Triangle Plaza Shopping Center.

A brochure has been mailed to all livestock producers on our mailing list. Horse owners will have a program just for them in the afternoon.

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Need to keep a close watch on weed development in soybeans. There are significant differences in costs of herbicides. Different management conditions and the kind of weed will likely determine which herbicide you will use and manner of application. If soybeans have a height advantage over the weeds, a directed spray is usually the least cost way of applying the herbicide.

Some things to remember when applying a directed spray: do not spray more than ⅓ of the bottom of the stem of the soybeans. Use slide, wheels, cultivator shanks or other means of controlling the height of the spray. A low pressure will help avoid clouding and drifting. This is an excellent program, but it must be done right.

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Soybean producers may want to combine an educational experience and a vacation by attending "Soybean EXPO '83" in Nashville July 31-August 3.

This is the annual conference of the American Soybean Association. More information is available on this program, if interested.

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If you've wondered whether the blue mold that infects tobacco today is different from the prep-1979 blue mold the answer is "yes." N.C. State has performed comparison tests and say the current strain of blue mold appears to be significantly different from the blue mold before 1979.

Happiness is 4-H

By FRANK SWEET

Arrangements are nearly final for our trip to Holiday Lake 4-H Camp on July 4. More than 150 4-H'ers, 15 teenagers and 10 adults will be in attendance with the Appomattox group at the camp this year. The week at camp includes classes in activities such as swimming, canoeing, horsemanship, tennis, volleyball, arts and crafts, fishing, rifle safety, dramatics, archery, nature and outdoor cookery. Campers will also take part in sports and games, recreational activities, campfires, and group activities.

The 4-H camp group will meet at Appomattox Primary School on Monday morning, July 4, at 8:30 A.M. Buses will leave for camp at 9:30 A.M. on Monday. The group will return to Appomattox on Friday afternoon, July 8, about 2:30 P.M.

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Nineteen 4-H'ers from Bailey County, Texas and their chaperones will be visiting in Appomattox during the period from July 16-23. A special planning session for host families will be held in the Extension Office on Monday night, June 27, beginning at 7:30 P.M. Appomattox 4-H'ers will have the opportunity to travel to western Texas during the summer of 1984 as we complete the Interstate Exchange Program.

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4-H Sewing Classes are beginning this week. If you would like to participate as a 4-H'er or as a volunteer teacher, please call us at the Extension Office (352-8244). The sewing participants will have the opportunity to model the garments which they make during the annual 4-H Fashion Revue in August.

• • •

Senior 4-H'ers have a July 29 deadline to complete and turn in Achievement Records to the Extension Office. State winners in Achievement Records will be awarded trips to National 4-H Congress in Chicago during November. Detailed instructions and the necessary forms for Achievement Records are available from the Extension Office.

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This is State 4-H Congress week on the Virginia Tech Campus. The Appomattox group left Monday and will return on Friday morning about 11:00. More than 1200 teenage 4-H'ers from across Virginia have participated in this week's Congress program.

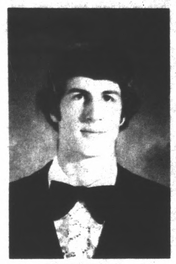
Red Hill plans celebration

An Independence Day weekend celebration will be held July 3 and 4 at historic Red Hill Shrine near Brookneal.

Highlights of this year's event include: A two-day art show sale featuring artists from Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina; a return engagement of the dramatic "re-enactment of Patrick Henry's speech" sponsored by the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation; and a gigantic Monday night fireworks display.

Special living history tours of the museum, entertainment, recreation, music, and picnicking on the spacious grounds of Red Hill are also available.

Red Hill Shrine is the last home and burial place of Patrick Henry. It is open to the public daily, and located five miles east of Brookneal; off Rt. 40 in Charlotte County. Reduced admission on July 3-4 only.



Robert Morgan

Morgan accepted

Robert Morgan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Morgan, of Rt. 2, Appomattox, has been accepted for admisison to Nashville Auto Diesel College, Nashville, Tennessee.

Robert, a 1983 graduate of Appomattox County High School, has completed two courses of instruction approved by The State Department of Education of Virginia; Agriculture Machinery, and Auto Mechanics.

Robert will enter Nashville Auto Diesel College, July 26, 1983.

Applications being taken

The Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind, a nonprofit, tax supported public school in Staunton, Virginia, is now accepting applications for prospective students for the 1983-84 school term. Parents or guardians of prospective students must be residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

For an application or for additional information, contact the Educational Director, Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, P.O. Box 2069, Staunton, Virginia 24401 or phone (703) 885-9537.

Longwood party set

All Appomattox Longwood College alumni, current students, and new students, are invited to a coke party on Saturday, June 25, 1983 at 10 a.m. at the home of Bonnie Herncall.

R.S.V.P. by June 22nd and for directions call: Betsy Carter 352-7890, Carolyn Coleman 352-5191, or Winnie Agee 352-7438.

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ASCS Today

USDA exercises PIK option on this year's wheat crop

By TOM CONRAD

USDA Exercises PIK Option for 1983-Crop Wheat - Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block recently said it will be necessary to require wheat producers who do not have sufficient quantities of wheat pledged as price support loan collateral to meet their payment-in-kind requirements to obtain loans on their 1983-crop production.

Producers who have no 1983-crop wheat planted for harvest or who do not have sufficient wheat planted for harvest to meet their PIK requirements will receive payment-in-kind from other wheat in Commodity Credit Corporation inventory, he said.

Block said all producers who signed a contract to participate in the 1983 PIK program agreed to obtain a loan on their 1983 production for PIK purposes to satisfy program needs if required by CCC. USDA decided to exercise this option after determining there is an insufficient quantity of wheat currently available to CCC to meet PIK needs, he said.

CCC has developed special provisions to permit producers to use their 1983 wheat production for PIK purposes even though they do not have warehouse or on-farm storage available, Block said. The producer must certify to the local county ASCS office that the required quantity was harvested from an eligible farm and has not been sold prior to the certification.

The producer can obtain the loan, redeem the loan collateral and sell it to CCC. The producer then will be eligible to immediately receive the payment-in-kind from CCC inventory. However, these producers will not receive the proceeds of the sale of the wheat to CCC until their PIK availability date.

Producers will eligible 1983 crop wheat stored in an approved structure on the farm or in a warehouse covered by a uniform grain storage agreement may receive a regular price support loan for the wheat and earn storage payments for up to five months beginning on the PIK availability date.

UDSA Seeks Comments on Milk Price Support Level and Dairy Deductions - As provided for in legislation adopted last year by Congress, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to maintain the dairy price support level of $13.10 per hundred pounds for the 1983-84 marketing year and increasing the deduction on all milk marketed commercially from 50 cents to $1 per hundred pounds, beginning Aug. 1.

According to Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block, the increased deduction would be made from proceeds from the sale of all milk marketed commercially by producers during the period Aug. 1, 1983 through Sept. 30, 1984.

Block said the two steps are being proposed to slow the rate of increase in milk production and reduce the cost of the dairy price support program.

Block said even if the two proposals are implemented, net price support purchases of milk and milk products by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation are estimated to exceed 16 billion pounds (milk equivalent) during the current 1982-83 marketing year and to exceed 11 billion pounds during the 1983-84 marketing year.

According to current law, the first 50-cent deduction is authorized if expected net government purchases exceed 5 billion pounds (milk equivalent) and the second 50-cent deduction is authorized if expected net purchases exceed 7.5 billion pounds (Milk equivalent).

He said the dairy deduction proposal also includes a provision for a refund of 50 cents per hundred pounds to producers who reduce their commercial marketings form quantities marketed during a designated base period.

The proposals appear in the May 31 Federal Register. The deadline for receiving comments is June 30.

Send comments to the director, Analysis Division, USDA/ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Washington,D.C. 20013. Comments will be available for public inspection in room 3741 of USDA's South Building.

Walton addresses schools convention

More than 200 education, government, industry and community leaders met for a three-day conference in Arlington June 16-18.

The event, sponsored by the American Vocational Association, the American Association of School Administrators, the National School Boards Association and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, highlighted the means for improving vocational education in the comprehensive high school.

Lloyd G. Walton, superintendent of schools in Appomattox County, was a speaker for the afternoon session held on Friday, June 17. His presentation as part of a panel of three was entitled "A Good Fit is Possible - Programs from a School Administrator's Prospective."

The role of vocational education in the nation's more than 17,000 general and comprehensive high schools has been the subject of intense national scrutiny over the last few months. Some critics have even called for its elimination. However, the recent Commission on Excellence in Education Report called for providing students with rigorous efforts in vocational education as one of the areas complementing the basic curriculum.

"We feel that it is critical that we consider means to make vocational education stronger in our nation's high schools. This conference was designed to take a look at what it can be and to discuss strategies for improvement." said Gene Bottoms, executive director of the American Vocational Association.

Conference sessions focused on contributions that might be made to improve vocational education by employers, school boards, administrators, public officials, corporation labor organizations, teachers, and parents. To guide future efforts for improvements "An Agenda for Action" will be available from AVA in September 1983.

Also in attendance at the conference was Richard B. Carter, Sr., director of vocational education for Appomattox County.

Blankenship moves up

Airman 1st Class Michael W. Blankenship, son of Eddie B. and Jean F. Blankenship of Rural Route 1, Concord, has graduated from the U.S. Air Force fuels specialist course at Chanute Air Force Base, Ill.

Graduates of the course learned procedures for receiving, storing and issuing petroleum products, and earned credits toward an associate degree in applied science through the Community College of the Air Force.

Blankenship is assigned at Zaragoza Air Base, Spain, with the 406th Tactical Fighter Training Wing.

He is a 1982 graduate of Rustburg High School.

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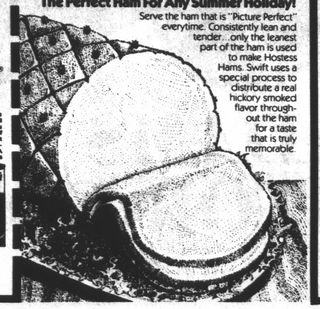

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